Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

same care as in America and Europe. From the studies of Mr. C. D. Walcott and others, it seems clear that the continent of North America in Cambrian time had essentially the same outline it now has, although it was considerably less in extent. In brief, it has been ascertained that there was a depression along the margin of what is now the Appalachian chain from Newfoundland to Alabama, protected from the open sea, the primitive Atlantic, by a fringe of islands. Along the western slope of the site of the Rocky Mountain chain the same conditions prevailed, and in these two troughs the fauna lived and flourished. During Middle and Upper Cambrian time, conditions became modified so as to allow the fauna to exist in other localities, notably in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Texas.

Where the faunas originated, and how they spread from place to place, so as to become so widely scattered over the globe, are questions it is not, at present, possible to answer. That we know as much as we do about the life on the earth at so distant a period in its history, is owing to the patient work of a few enthusiastic students, among whom Mr. C. D. Walcott must always occupy a prominent position.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

—THE public is acquainted with the results of Peary's last expedition from which he has just returned. He was not able to discover his principal caches of food, and this, with the treachery of some of his Esquimaux, prevented him from reaching the coast which he discovered on his first expedition. He turned back in time to permit his reaching his camp of departure just as his provisions were exhausted. A heavy storm at the end might have ended his career at no great distance from his base of supplies. This season and the last were unfavorable for arctic exploration, and it is quite possible that some one may yet utilize Peary's supplies and reach higher latitudes in Greenland. It is, however, certain that Greenland does not lie in the most available route to the pole, which is by way of the islands north of Siberia. Science awaits with interest the results of Nansen's bold enterprise by sea, and of Jackson's Expedition across Franz Joseph land. When once the way is open, science will send its votaries to the field which is awaiting them.

Peary's observations and collections in Ethnology, Meteorology and other departments on Inglefield Gulf will repay the cost of the expedition; and the results of the relief expedition, like those of its predecessors, are of great value. Large collections were made by the latter, which will go to the American Museum of Natural History of New York, and the Museum of the University of Kansas.

—MR. L. O. HOWARD, of the Department of Agriculture of Washington, has made a discovery which will probably be of great practical importance. He finds that a thin stratum or film of oil on the surface of the water where they breed, will destroy the larvæ of mosquitoes. This will prove welcome news to people living in many localities. How to destroy this pest of many parts of the earth has been a subject of thought for a long time. The late Dr. Robert Lamborn gave two prizes for essays which advocated the propagation of dragon-flies as the most feasible mode of attack, since the mosquito is the natural food of these raptorial insects; but no one has yet undertaken to demonstrate the practicability of the plan. The application of oil to the waters of swamps and lagoons where the Culices breed, is a simple matter, and the expense will be small in comparison with the advantage gained. The use of oil in the valley of the Missouri River, and on many parts of our coast, would increase the value of the land to an untold degree. In fact, the habitable part of the earth in many latitudes must be greatly increased in extent by this discovery. Meanwhile we must be content to let these small creatures render life miserable or impossible, and hide behind "bars" which do not always protect, or suffocate in stinking smudges, until the use of oil for their destruction becomes general. In waters which are not private property, it will be well for the States to lead the way, and make appropriations for the purpose.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission for 1893.[1]—The contents of this volume comprise the papers that were read at the congress

---

[1] Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. XIII, for 1893. Washington, 1894.